

RESERVOIR SITES, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

APRIL 2, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SHAFROTH, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1317.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom Senate bill 1317 was referred, respectfully report as follows:

The city of Colorado Springs, Colo., is a city of more than 20,000 population. In the past few years it has been growing very rapidly on account of the mineral development in the Cripple Creek district, which is situate in the same county. The water supply for said city is inadequate, and it is necessary to construct reservoirs in order to furnish a sufficient quantity for domestic purposes. There has already been expended on its waterworks the sum of \$727,000. This bill permits the city of Colorado Springs to purchase, at \$1.25 per acre, certain reservoir sites, together with sufficient land adjacent thereto, to prevent contamination of the waters. The lands referred to in said bill are part of an abandoned military reservation. It is not likely that they will ever be needed by the Government again. They are situate in the mountains at an elevation of from 11,000 to 12,000 feet above the level of the sea. At that elevation only brush and small timber grow, and there is very little timber upon these lands. These lands, on account of the high elevation and rocky character of the soil, are not fit for agricultural purposes.

Your committee is of the opinion that said lands are not worth more than the price fixed in this bill, and for these reasons recommend the passage of this bill.